

LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR THE BLIND IN THE UNITED STATES

A REPORT OF
THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE
ON WORK FOR THE BLIND

REPRINTED FROM THE PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BERKELEY CONFERENCE
JULY 1915

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COMMITTEE ON WORK FOR THE BLIND

YOUR committee, in its report of last year, urged more systematic co-operation among organizations interested in the circulation of embossed books. As a step toward this end the present report is an attempt to furnish a brief inventory of the reading resources of the blind throughout the country, including the centers of distribution in each state, the nature and size of these collections, and the principal sources for the purchase of material. A number of organizations failed to respond to the request for statistics; in such cases data from earlier published reports have been given, and the dates of the reports indicated. Otherwise, the figures here quoted are for 1914. The collections owned by the schools, though frequently designed for the use of the pupils exclusively, are given here, as co-operation is often possible.

These data make clear the imperative need for the most intelligent co-ordination of effort, if this special reading public, small in number, scattered over the entire country, is to be supplied to the best advantage with the limited resources available. The discouragement of insignificant collections, the development of a few additional large ones in portions of the country now neglected, and the adoption of a uniform type for the printing of books are urged as means of relieving present conditions. The national annual appropriation of \$10,000 is far too inadequate to meet the demand for both text-books for children and reading matter for the general public. If even a few states could follow New York in the making of an annual appropriation for the printing of embossed books, the situation would be immensely improved.

INVENTORY OF LIBRARIES OF EMBOSSED BOOKS

Key to abbreviations used in this inventory:

AB = American Braille.
B = Braille.
Circ. = Circulation.

EB = European Braille.
Ll = Line letter.
M = Moon.

Ms = Music scores.
NY = New York point.
Vols. = Volumes.

Alabama

Montgomery: Department of Archives and History. Vols. 88: EB 17; Ll 64; M 1; NY 6. Titles 66. Books may be circulated throughout the state.

Talladega: School for the Blind (1908). Titles 1101: AB 615; Ll 486. Ms: B 44.

Arkansas

Little Rock: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 1770: Ll 275; NY 1490. Titles 407.

California

Berkeley: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind. Vols. 1500: AB 750; Ll 50; NY 175. Titles 400. Ms: B 200. The school does not circulate its books.

Sacramento: State Library. Vols. 3602: AB 1029; EB 214; Ll 142; M 1145; NY 986. Titles 1752. Ms 585: B 457; Ll 17; M 3; NY 108. Appliances 44; Games 17; Maps 6; Ink print magazines 86. Circ. 9780: AB 2977; EB 290; Ll 41; M 4087; NY 986. Appliances 42; Games 22; Maps 3; Ink

California, continued.

print magazines 74. Books may be circulated throughout California and to neighboring states without libraries for the blind. A printed catalog, which may be had upon application, was issued in January, 1914. This is supplemented each quarter by the News Notes. One home teacher is employed.

San Francisco: Assn. for the Blind. Vols. 400.

Colorado

Colorado Springs: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Vols. 1100. Titles 548: AB 70; LI 128; NY 350. Ms: NY 80.

Connecticut

Hartford: Institute for the Blind, Sch. Dept. (1908). Vols. 536: AB 283; LI 253. Titles 204. Ms: B 190.

Delaware

Wilmington: Institute Free Library. Vols. 804: AB 449; EB 25; M 330. Titles 446. Circ. 687: B 235; M 452. Books are circulated throughout Delaware. An ink print catalog is sent without charge. A home teacher who co-operates with the library is employed by the Delaware Commission.

District of Columbia

Washington: Library of Congress. Vols. 3,000; AB 300; EB 300; LI 100; M 600; NY 1,250. Ms 225: B 100; NY 125. Circ. 3,359. The library will, in so far as its collection permits, lend books in all embossed types to readers who are unable to borrow books in the types they desire from state institutions, state or nearby libraries. An ink print catalog issued June, 1914, and a supplement to be issued May, 1915, will be sent free.

Washington: National Library for the Blind. Vols. 1,074: AB 7; EB 838; LI 132; M 10; NY 17. Titles 511. Circ.: EB 800. Books may be circulated throughout the U. S. A printed catalog may be had upon application. EB catalogs are sold for 10c. each.

Florida

St. Augustine: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Titles 175: LI 25; NY 150.

Georgia

Macon: Acad. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 2,500. Titles 409: AB 38; LI 136; NY 235.

Illinois

Chicago: Public Library. Vols. 1,449: AB 643; LI 228; M 483; NY 95. The books are circulated throughout the state. Both printed and embossed catalogs are available without charge.

Jacksonville: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Titles 803: AB 470; LI 183; NY 150. Ms: B 2,000.

Indiana

Indianapolis: Indiana Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 2,074: LI 150; NY 1,924. Titles 690. Ms: B 200, 100 volumes in instruction.

Indianapolis: State Library. Vols. 639: AB 35; LI 222; NY 382. Titles 366. Ms 7: LI 2; NY 5. Circ. 455 (chiefly NY). The books are circulated throughout Indiana. A NY catalog is available without charge.

Iowa

Des Moines: Iowa Library Commission. Vols. 267: LI 10; NY 257. Titles 165. Circ. 366. Books are sent throughout the state of Iowa. A printed catalog is supplied free.

Vinton: Iowa College for the Blind. Vols. 3,786: AB 5; LI 275; M 6; NY 3,500. Titles 500. Ms: NY 6,962. Circ. 30 (outside the school). Books are sent throughout the state of Iowa.

Kansas

Kansas City: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 2,500.

Kentucky

Louisville: Free Public Library. Vols. 383: AB 1; LI 192; NY 190. Titles 268. The books are circulated throughout Kentucky. NY and LI catalogs are supplied free, and a printed list is being prepared.

Louisville: Kentucky Inst. for the Educ. of the Blind. Vols. 2,423: LI 450; M 65; NY 1,908. Titles 400. Ms: NY 225. The books are circulated only among the pupils of the school.

Louisiana

Baton Rouge: Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 794: AB 135; NY 559. Titles 460. Ms 350: B 200; NY 150. The books are circulated throughout Louisiana. There is a printed catalog of the collection.

Maryland

Baltimore: Enoch Pratt Free Library. Vols. 1,757. Titles 685: L1 135; NY 550. Ms: Included in NY books. Circ. 493. The books may be circulated throughout Maryland.

Overlea P. O.: Maryland Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 3,675: AB 25; L1 250; NY 3,400. Titles 700. Ms 3,170: B 20; NY 3,150. The books may be circulated throughout Maryland. NY catalogs are supplied free of charge. The school employs a home teacher.

Massachusetts

Boston: Public Library. Vols. 1,052: AB 32; EB 5; L1 216; M 642; NY 136. Titles 548. Ms 21: B 1; NY 20. Circ. small, not recorded. The circulation of books is not restricted to any particular territory, but the use of the nearest available source is recommended. A catalog of books in embossed form, issued in 1894, is sold for 50c. This library co-operates with the Library of Perkins Institution, in Watertown.

Brookline: Public Library. Vols. 109: AB 87; L1 1; M 21. Titles 75. Circ. 84, chiefly M. The books are circulated in Brookline, and possibly outside in case of need. Lists are sent to any blind readers who desire them.

Lynn: Public Library. Vols. 255: AB 142; EB 6; L1 63; M 7; NY 27. Titles 205. Circ. 476, for the most part borrowed from Perkins and the Library of Congress. There is no territorial limit to the circulation of these books. A card catalog in AB is available, and a printed list is published in the monthly bulletin. A blind assistant teaches all the types for the blind. The room is open three days each week.

New Bedford: Free Public Library. Vols. 214: AB 77; L1 105; M 1; NY 31. Titles 137. There is no territorial limit to the circulation of books. A typewritten catalog is available.

Watertown: Library of Perkins Institution. Vols. 13,461: AB 10,176; L1 1,362; M 876; NY 1,047. Titles 1,795. Ms: B 8,000. Circ. 5,296: AB 3,473; L1 374; M 1,129; NY 320 (circ. outside the school). The circ. within the school was 7,092. "It is primarily a school library, but from the

very first was designed to supply reading matter to the blind in any part of the U. S. and Canada. Throughout the northeastern states the majority of the books loaned to the blind are sent from the Perkins Institution." Printed catalogs are distributed freely wherever needed. The state teachers for the adult blind through New England use the library as headquarters. The reference library of books in ink print relating to the blind is the most complete collection of the kind in America. It is invaluable to students of the subject throughout the country.

Worcester: Free Public Library. Vols. 292: AB 69; EB 13; L1 142; M 56; NY 12. Titles 164. The books are circulated through central Mass.

Michigan

Detroit: Public Library. Vols. 222: AB 121; NY 41; Embossed 60. Titles 212. Circ. 212. The books are circulated in Detroit and environs.

Lansing: Michigan Sch. for the Blind (1908). Titles: AB 460.

Saginaw: Mich. Employment Inst. for the Blind (1913). "For the year July, 1913, to July, 1914, the legislature of Michigan granted \$1,000 to the institution for embossed books, and for the coming year of 1914-1915 the same amount has been granted. This is being expended for Braille and New York point books, and a large quantity of Braille and New York point music has also been ordered. The books and music are loaned to any blind person in the state, and will also be sent out of the state to any former resident or pupil, or to anyone who has in any way aided the library either by money or influence."

Minnesota

Faribault: Sch. for the blind (1908). Titles 566: L1 150; NY 146. Books may be circulated throughout the state.

Mississippi

Jackson: State Inst. for the Blind. Titles: NY 980. Ms: NY 50.

Missouri

St. Louis: Public Library. Vols. 489: AB 172; EB 90; L1 41; NY 131. Titles 44. Ms: B 44. Circ. about 100, chiefly AB. Books may be circulated throughout Missouri and the adjoining states. There is an embossed catalog in AB, published

Missouri, continued.

August, 1912. Additions are noted monthly in the printed Bulletin.

St. Louis: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols.: AB 4,760. Titles 569: AB 394; LI 775. Ms: B 632.

Montana

Boulder: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Vols. 146: AB 137; LI 8; NY 1. Titles 56. Ms: B 50.

Nebraska

Nebraska City: Inst. for the Blind. Vols.: NY 2,000. Titles 775. Ms: NY 75. The books may be circulated throughout Nebraska.

New Mexico

Alamo Gordo: Inst. for the Blind (1908). Titles 100: AB 40; LI 25; NY 35. Ms: All B.

New York

Albany: State Library for the Blind. Vols. 3,973: AB 1,121; EB 158; LI 525; M 331; NY 1,838. Titles (books and music) 2,337. Ms 949: B 53; NY 896. Circ. 6,682: AB 680; EB 328; LI 38; M 686; NY 4,949. Books may be circulated throughout New York state. An ink print catalog may be had upon application. Through a special appropriation made by the state, the New York State Library prints a number of new titles annually. Eighteen titles have been added during 1914. These books form the greater part of each year's additions to reading matter in New York point type. They may be purchased by other organizations at a nominal price, and are therefore a benefit to the blind of all other states. Through the efforts of the New York State Commissioner of Education, Dr. John H. Finley, several authors have been interested in the blind to the extent of having each a book published in tactile print. This serves as an illustration of what may be accomplished by a "volunteer worker" interested in adding to the body of embossed literature.

Auburn: Seymour Library. Vols.: NY 101. Circ. 25-35. The books are circulated in Cayuga and Onondaga counties.

Batavia: State Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 4,752: AB 767; NY 3,995. Titles 850. Ms 2,520: B 20; NY 2,500. Circ. 1,500: B 300; NY 1,200 (approximate). The circulation of the books is limited to pupils and former pupils. A printed catalog of the school's publications is available.

Brooklyn: Public Library. Vols. 2,255: AB 246; EB 69; LI 322; M 534; NY 735. Titles 1,300. Ms: NY 349. Circ. 1,157. The circulation of books is practically confined to the borough of Brooklyn. A home teacher is employed by the library.

Buffalo: Public Library. Vols. 92: AB 9; LI 7; M magazine only; NY 76. The library has city support only, but has loaned books outside in the county. Printed lists of the books are sent without charge.

New York: Institute for the Education of the Blind. Vols. 3,606: AB 6; M 100; NY 3,000. Titles 300. Ms: NY 9,250 (estimated). The books are circulated only among the pupils of the school.

New York: Public School Classes for the Blind Children. Vols.: 2,500 pamphlets and 200 bound vols., all in AB. Titles 170. The books are sent to the different classes for the blind children in the public school system of Greater New York.

New York: Public Library. Vols. 7,342 (Ms not included): AB 1,313; EB 992; LI 310; M 2,033; NY 2,694. Titles 2,339. Ms 5,377: B 1,764; LI 1; NY 3,612. Circ. 26,224: AB 2,637; EB 6,322; LI 66; M 5,510; NY 9,114; B music 951; NY music 1,586; Ink print 38. Books may be circulated throughout New York state, New Jersey, and Connecticut, without restriction, and to any part of the U. S., provided the applicant cannot secure the desired material from a nearer source. Printed catalogs of books and of music will be sent upon request. The embossed catalog is published in five sections, three of books, two of music, each section being printed in the type of the books listed therein. This catalog will be loaned to regularly enrolled readers, or it can be bought at 10c. a section. The library employs one home teacher, who works in Greater New York.

Rochester: Public Library. Vols. 50, all in NY. Titles 18. Books are all loaned to the Rochester Assn. for the Blind, which has headquarters at Reynolds Library.

North Carolina

Raleigh: Library for Blind Institute. Vols. 2,937: AB 22; LI 500; NY 2,415. Titles 2,000. Circ. 275; LI 25; NY 250. The books are circulated throughout North Carolina. A home teacher is employed by the Institute.

North Dakota

Bathgate: Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 662. Titles 250: AB 6; M 6; NY 650. Ms: NY 165. Books may be circulated throughout the state.

Ohio

Cincinnati: Cincinnati Library Society for the Blind. Vols. 2,044; AB 18; LI 219; M 335; NY 1,472. Ms: NY 125. There are few duplicates among the collection. Circ. 6,182. Books may be circulated throughout the U. S. and Canada at present, but the lending of books is to be restricted to residents of Ohio. A New York point catalog is sold for 10c. a copy. A home teacher is employed.

Cleveland: Public Library. Vols. 689; AB 113; EB 19; LI 65; M 79; NY 413. Titles 436. Ms: B 3; NY 33. Circ. 2,552; AB 272; EB 189; M 723; NY 768. Books may be circulated throughout the U. S. The local Society for the Blind and the state commission furnish home teachers.

Oklahoma

Wagoner: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 296.

Oregon

Portland: Library Association. Vols. 154; AB 25; M 55; NY 74. Titles 73. Circ. (estimated): AB 1; M 13; NY 118. The books are sent throughout the state of Oregon.

Salem: State Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Vols. 600; AB 300; NY 300. Ms: B 1,000.

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia: Free Library. Vols. 4,205; AB 855; EB 286; LI 271; M 2,411; NY 382. Titles 1,062. Ms: B less than 100. Circ. 21,974; AB 4,074; EB 159; LI 22; M 16,971; NY 748. The volumes purchased for the Free Library are circulated within the city limits; those belonging to the Penn. Home Teaching Soc., largely M., are sent throughout the U. S. and its possessions, except in western Penn. and in Calif. Embossed lists in M, AB, and NY are loaned free of charge; a printed list of M type books and typewritten lists of the other types are available; other printed lists are in preparation. Home teachers are employed by the Penn. Home Teaching Soc. The work of this library offers an unusual instance of co-operation. It circulates the books owned by the Penn. Home Teaching Soc., and uses the same building with other activities of the blind which are under the management of the Penn. Instit. for the Instruction of the Blind.

Philadelphia (Overbrook): Penn. Instit. for the Instruction of the Blind. Vols. 19,941; AB 17,540; EB 252; LI 950; M 150;

NY 1,049. Titles 1,775. Ms: B 3,000, titles 1,500. Circ. 465; AB 459; NY 5; LI 1. (These figures apply only to circulation outside the school. The circulation among the pupils runs into the thousands.) "As we are a school library, our first duty is to our pupils, but we send books anywhere throughout the United States, or even to Mexico, when they are really needed and cannot be secured elsewhere." Catalogs are loaned free of charge. A complete list of all publications in AB has been compiled by Mr. O. H. Burritt, of this school, and may be bought for 9c.

Pittsburgh: Carnegie Library. Vols. 2,627; AB 926; EB 91; LI 154; M 911; NY 545; a deposit of 785 vols. from the Penn. Home Teaching Soc. Titles 1,052. Circ. 4,712; AB 2,103; EB 28; LI 62; M 1,931; NY 588. The books are circulated through western Penn. An ink print catalog is sold for 5c., 10c. postpaid; B and M lists are loaned to readers. A home teacher furnished by the Penn. Home Teaching Soc. works in western Penn. under the direction and supervision of the library.

Pittsburgh: Western Penn. Instit. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 988; AB 398; LI 220; NY 370. Ms, titles: B 204; NY 48.

Rhode Island

Providence: Public Library. Vols. 291; AB 140; LI 88; M 62; NY 1. Titles 351. Ms: B 63. Circ. 735. The books are circulated throughout R. I. Multigraphed lists are provided free of charge. The state employs home teachers.

South Dakota

Gary: Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 1,313; AB 1,273; NY 40. Ms: B 443. Books are circulated only among pupils of the school.

Tennessee

Nashville: Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols. 800; "About 600 in LI and the rest in NY and AB." Titles 400. Ms: B 715.

Texas

Austin: State Sch. for the Blind (1908). Vols.: "Mostly in NY and LI."

Utah

Ogden: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind. Vols.: AB 215.

Salt Lake City: Auxiliary of the Reading Room for the Blind, Public Library.

Utah, continued.

Vols. 187: AB 168; L1 1; M 5; NY 9; Lucas 4. Circ. 45. The books are circulated in Salt Lake City and county. A teacher is employed by the Auxiliary to teach at the library.

Virginia

Staunton: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Titles 1,000: L1 500; NY 500.

Washington

Seattle: Public Library. Vols. 630: AB 237; L1 1; M 111; NY 281. Titles 376. Circ. 178. The territory throughout which the books may be sent is unlimited. Type-written lists of the books are available without charge.

Spokane: Public Library. Vols. 56: AB 44; NY 18. Titles 18. Circ. very small. Books are circulated only in Spokane.

Vancouver: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Titles 167: AB 40; L1 50; NY 75. Ms: B 2.

West Virginia

Romney: Sch. for the Deaf and Blind (1908). Vols. 700: L1 100; NY 600.

Wisconsin

Janesville: State Sch. for the Blind. Vols. 6,285: AB 50; L1 200; M 10; NY 6,025 (including 2,996 books for circ. and 3,029 textbooks. Titles 519. Ms: NY 95. Circ. 528; M 10; NY 518. Books are circulated throughout the U. S. Home teachers are employed.

Milwaukee: Public Library. Vols. 350. Titles 254: AB 80; L1 10; M 4; NY 160. Ms: B 11. Circ. 100 (approximate). The books are circulated only in Milwaukee.

PRICE LISTS**American Braille**

The new edition of the "List of publications in American Braille" published by the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia, is a record of all the books available in the American Braille type.

Practically all of the Braille music embossed in this country is included in the catalog of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Watertown, Mass., and the School for the Blind, Jacksonville, Ill.

European Braille

The most important list of the books and music published in the European Braille type is issued by the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland street, London, W., England, formerly The British and Foreign Blind Association. Announcements of the new publications from this press are given monthly in *The Braille Review*. The catalog of the books and music published by the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, Scotland, is also of interest. The most useful lists of material published in foreign languages are issued by F. W. Vogel, Hamburg 33, Hufnerstrasse 122, and by the Association Valentin Haüy, 7 & 9 Rue Duroc, Paris.

The "Catalogue Général de la Musique Imprimée en Braille" was brought out by the Association Valentin Haüy in 1910. This is a list of all the piano music embossed by the continental presses and also by the British and Foreign Blind Association, London.

Moon Type

The price list printed by the Moon Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, England, contains all the material printed in that type. This organization is now a part of the National Institute for the Blind.

New York Point

For both reading matter and music embossed in the New York point type the catalog of the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ky., should be used, as it includes practically all of such material.

The State School for the Blind, Batavia, N. Y., and the Xavier Free Publication Society, 59 East 83rd street, New York city, have short lists of material not contained in that of the American Printing House. The catalog of the former is made up principally of music and the latter altogether of books.

For the Committee,

LUCILLE A. GOLDTHWAITE, Chairman.